

Sophomore Literature
Spring 2025

Online Asynchronous

We are offering two online sections each of World Literature (2309), British Literature (2319), and American Literature (2329).

Children's Literature

ENGL 2303-007: Topics in Literature

Joanna Johnson

Children's literature holds an important place culturally because of the ways it reflects and shapes ideas relating to both "the child" and society in general. What better way to approach historical ideas of childhood than to focus on works from what is considered to be the "traditional" children's literature canon? This course will draw largely from the "Golden Age" of children's literature, 1865-1911, and includes texts that have crossed over into the mainstream canon. These works for children often addressed multiple audiences, offering political and social commentary targeted at adults. Additionally, most of these readings have been popularized by other genres such as plays, films, and picture books. The course will examine this success and its relation to the original work. We will take a scholarly and critical approach to the texts, viewing and discussing them through multiple lenses.

Face-to-Face

American Drama

ENGL 2303-001: Topics in Literature

MW 4-5:20

Michael Raines

Experiencing dramatic literature is best when performed or, at least, spoken aloud. Students in 2303 will be asked to participate in making the literature come alive. This introduction to American drama includes a brief overview of major American playwrights and composers, with an emphasis on Tennessee Williams, August Wilson, and Steven Sondheim. Shorter works and excerpts from widely-produced Texas plays will also be studied. Classes will focus on textual analysis and will range from watching filmed versions of play scripts to actively reading and even staging those same scripts and other, related scenes. Students are expected to read in preparation and—as fitting—in class. Memorization will not be stressed, but thoughtful interpretation will be. However, for students not wishing to base their grades on their classroom participation and preparations, other accommodations will be provided for alternative participation, requiring additional research and

dramaturgy, in lieu of an in-class reading grade. No matter exactly how we engage with these scripts, one of our main ENGL 2303 goals will be to have fun as we learn to appreciate some of the gifts American playwrights have offered the world.

Python for Linguistic Analysis of Literature

ENGL 2303-006: Topics in Literature

TR 11-12:20

Bethany Shaffer

This course, offered collaboratively by the Department of English and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, aims to equip students with the fundamental skills of Python coding while introducing them to the literary interpretation technique known as "linguistic analysis of literature." By merging the realms of coding and literary analysis, students will gain a unique perspective on how technology can be harnessed to better understand social realities and pertinent social issues within texts.

Rewriting Normalcy: Disability and the Power of Storytelling

ENGL 2303-008: Topics in Literature; counts toward the Disability Studies minor

MW 1-2:20

Sarah Shelton

In this course, we'll explore how storytelling reshapes our understanding of disability, challenging societal norms and redefining narratives of ability and difference. Through a variety of genres—including novels, memoirs, comics, and films—you'll examine how characters and authors use storytelling to resist disability stereotypes, reclaim their identities, and expand what it means to be "normal." We'll discuss how stories about disability intersect with race, class, and gender, and how these narratives influence cultural perceptions. By analyzing multiple texts, you'll strengthen your skills in critical reading, writing, and thinking while uncovering the transformative power of storytelling in shaping our views on disability and society. This course offers an interdisciplinary lens, incorporating insights from Disability Studies, literature, theory, and cultural studies.

Literature of the Asian Diaspora

ENGL 2309-003: World Literature

TR 12:30-1:50

Ji Nang Kim

This class examines the experiences of the Asian diaspora as portrayed in literature, visual art, and film. It poses the question of how these cultural expressions represent, resist, or complicate the concepts of homeland and diaspora. We will discuss short stories, fiction, poems, visual arts, and films that explore the relationships of diasporic authors with their homelands—Korea, China, India, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam—and their interactions in their adopted lands. These authors' diasporic experiences—living "in-between" multiple histories and cultures—challenge a singularized version of Asia by producing ambivalent views on history, identity, and nationality. In class, we will consider the concept of "Asian diaspora" in the study of immigration from Asia to England and North America, considering aspects such as colonialism, wars, exiles, or labor immigration. By selecting diverse diasporic authors including Nora Okja Keller, Salman Rushdie,

and Michael Ondaatje, this class examines the interlocking themes of memory and trauma, race and gender, and migrations and borders to understand the dynamics of the diverse ethnic groups of the Asian diaspora.

World Literature

ENGL 2309-004

MWF 9-9:50

Joul Smith

This course channels the deeply numinous (or spiritual) journey that complex and diverse literary expressions have always provided for humanity since the dawn of written poetry, prose fiction, drama, and philosophy. We will use our class-time as a devotional engagement with literary texts from each continent (even Antarctica!). I will serve as a moderator, teacher, and aid as we move through these texts, and you will be asked to draw from your common and epiphanic experiences as we develop an understanding of the texts' influences upon our reality, our world.

Heroes, Villains, and Monsters in British Literature

ENGL 2319-005: British Literature

TR 3:30-4:50

Rachael Mariboho

This course examines how seminal heroes, villains, and monstrous figures in British literature have been reinterpreted and reimagined in twenty-first century fiction and film. We will study genres including detective fiction, fantasy, fairytales, and science fiction and analyze how the concept of a hero/villain/monster has evolved over time.

American Hauntings

ENGL 2329-007: American Literature

TR 2-3:20

Daniel Kasper

William Faulkner said that “The past is not dead. It isn’t even past,” and nowhere is that more obvious than in the ghosts that haunt American literature. Whether as representations of chattel slavery, Native genocide, or women’s disempowerment, the striking metaphor of haunted space pervades American culture as the nightmare version of the American dream. This American Literature course will explore the tensions inherent in the American project—the attempted nation-building of a multicultural society—through the four centuries of ghost stories. Students will read works (short stories, novels, plays, comics, and film) by masters of terror and horror, including Faulkner, Toni Morrison, Shirley Jackson, Stephen King, as they grapple with the effect of history on the present.

American Literature

ENGL 2329-008

MW 1-2:20

Matt Tettleton

This class will explore a selection of literary texts written by American authors. These texts bear witness to the roles that literacy, narrative, and textual production play in the making of American cultures. In our class, we will explore the methods that literary scholars employ to excavate literary texts for the multiplicity of meanings exchanged between writers and the generations of readers who engage their texts. Texts may include essays, poetry, novels, short stories, drama, graphic novels, and film.